

Worship and Music Report 2021

Covid-19 brought changes to our Sunday worship service. We now attend in person, wearing masks, or join the congregation by computer and "livestreaming." Thanks to Dick Stephens and his tech crew, Mary Johnson, Sheryl Crankshaw, Jim Wilson and Patti Stephens, many people have been able to receive our service. The Clerk's Report includes averages of both in-building and on-line attendance.

On January 10th our congregation had the joy of being led in worship by Summer Sattora, as she candidated with hopes of being our pastor. She was unanimously approved. Summer's first Sunday as our spiritual leader was February 14th. Until then we were blessed with Sunday service leadership of Rev. Gail Parsons, Linya Bell, Patti Stephens, Rev. Marti Montovani and Rev. Adele Spencer.

We remembered the Crucifixion on April 2nd at 7:00 PM, with a Communion and Tenebrae service.

On Easter Sunday, April 4th, at 6:30 AM, we joined in an Ecumenical Sunrise service at the Battlefield. At our 10:00 AM service, memory flowers added joy to our celebration of our risen Lord.

On May 23rd, Summer initiated the use of lay liturgists into our service. Sixteen members and friends have served. We even had a former pastor, Rev. Scott Barton, participate at the invitation of John Deans.

The afternoon of July 18th, we hosted a special service officially installing Rev. Summer Sattora as our pastor!

On November 21st, at 7:00 PM, we united with the Sulphur Springs Methodist, Adams Methodist and St. Andrew Catholic churches for a Thanksgiving worship in our sanctuary.

Advent began on November 28th. Before the service Jim Wilson and Ralph Marcellus had put up the sanctuary tree. Patti Stephens prepared the Advent Wreath. Following the service wreaths, swags, banners and nativity figures were added. The poinsettias arrived December 5th. Readers for Advent Wreath lighting were: Earleen Maxon; Brenda Scordo; Sue Chawgo with granddaughter, Josephine Johnson; Karen Fields; and Diane and Don Woodhouse, with Hanna Kenney.

On December 21st, at 6:30 PM, a Blue Christmas service of readings and candle lighting was offered for those who experience grief or trauma during the season.

Christmas Eve was a service of Lessons and Carols, with candle lighting. Lay Readers were Jim and Vicki Wilson, Rich Connell, Robert Johnson, Patti Stephens, Earleen Maxon, and Ralph Marcellus.

Communion was celebrated the first Sunday of each month. Thanks to Sandy Colwell, for serving as our Communion steward, and to Greg Stephens, for baking the bread.

We are inspired each week by Eileen Edwards's piano preludes, postludes and service music.

Patti Stephens has extended our worship outreach into the community with hymns ringing out from the tower bells before services.

Thanks to Nancy Colwell, our Narthex door greeter, for serving each Sunday.

Dick Stephens holds us together with his electronic skills. He has searched through our past worship recordings, resurrecting choir anthems for encore presentations, backed by photography, to use as offertory music each week. Besides Dick's photos, Beth Burdick, Rich Connell, Mary Johnson and Greg Stephens have contributed photos for offertories.

Committee Members: Jane Wilcox and Patti Stephens